



Minutes of the Regular Meeting
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 7, 2004
Horizon Community Center
15444 N. 100th Street

Present: Chairperson Leigh Hersey, Vice-chair Donn Loper, Commissioners Shelley Anderson, Dean Cerimeli, Nona Oliver, and Stephen Owens

Absent and excused: Commissioner Bill Heckman

Staff Present: Bob Gwinn, Steve Lehmann, Bill Murphy, Andy Passmonick, and Judy Weiss

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hersey called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Hersey asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Cerimeli moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting February 18, 2004. Commissioner Anderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation programs. Ms. Weiss advised that the City has been awarded a Heritage Grant for the CAP Basin construction in the amount of \$40,000; April Pools Day will be held on April 17, 2004 at Eldorado Pool from 12 to 2 pm; A groundbreaking ceremony for the Sunrise Trail will be held on April 20, 2004 at 9 am; Grand Opening Ceremonies for LaMirada Desert Park will be held on May 8, 2004 at 9 am; Open Houses are set for April 13 and 14 at Eldorado Park from 12 to 2 pm and 5 to 7 pm for the proposed Giants spring training facility and public open space; On April 24, 2004 at Eldorado Park the annual Skatepark competition and Fishing Derby will be held; The Grayhawk Family campout will be held at Grayhawk Neighborhood Park on April 24, 2004; The Teen 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will be held at Eldorado's gym on May 1, 2004; The Uno de Mayo Celebration will be held on May 1, 2004 at Paiute; The Next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 21, 2004 at the City Hall Kiva; A Special meeting, joint with the Planning Commission, will be held on April 28, 2004 at 5 pm at City Hall Kiva.

William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Grounds Maintenance. Mr. Murphy advised that the Civic Center Mall will be hosting the Culinary Arts Festival the weekend of April 16, 17, and 18. Staff will begin planting summer flowers in the Mall, Downtown, and Fifth Avenue areas in the next 2 weeks. Power washing has been completed in the Fifth Avenue area and will continue in Old town and West Main St. The Nevelson sculpture renovation has been completed and new sod has been installed in the

amphitheater area. Staff will be applying fertilizer, doing deep tine aerating and verticutting on sports turf fields at Thunderbird, Mountain View, Chaparral, Cholla, Horizon, Grayhawk Copper Ridge, Sonoran Hills and Eldorado. School sites will be fertilized the week of May 31, 2004 after the completion of school.

ANNUAL REPORT

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, provided the Commission with an update on the Annual Report.

Vice-chair Loper wanted to acknowledge Gary Meyer for his work on making the intersection at Cactus and Scottsdale Roads and the entrance to Cactus Park a lot safer. He asked what the trends were based on. Ms. Weiss said any types of requests are tracked and neighborhood meetings are held and documented. Generally it is informal discussions. Vice-chair Loper asked what is a planning unit. Ms. Weiss explained the structure of the city's planning units. Vice-chair Loper asked if we carry the addressing of the trends on to a conclusion. Ms. Weiss said the Commission deals with these on a periodic basis. Vice-chair Loper is concerned about the elimination of the park police unit and the application of the behavior policies. Ms. Weiss advised that the idea of a park ranger program has been developed but is not funded yet. With the possible passing of the initiatives some funds could come back to the division to fund that program. Vice-chair Loper noted the addendum shows a variance and wonders where is that money. Ms. Weiss said that is money from the division that was not spent and stays in the General Fund. It is funds that the division saved and was used to help balance the City's budget. Vice-chair Loper asked if the grants received were split evenly between Hidden Hills and McDowell Mountain Ranch and how was the split determined. Ms. Weiss said individual amounts were applied for and the Heritage Fund has a trails section and an LSRP is where most of park development money comes from. There are certain caps for applying for funds and these are matching grants. Vice-chair Loper asked if the program service outcomes numbers for Pinnacle Peak are correct. Ms. Weiss the costs to provide the programming and maintenance of the trailhead stays pretty constant. Some of these were startup costs and are not linked. Staff will recheck the figures and advise the Commission. Vice-chair Loper asked how does Scottsdale stand against the national standards. Ms. Weiss said the national standard is 6-10 acres per 10,000 population. It is hard to compare Scottsdale to strict standards but we are about the same as other cities in the valley. Vice-chair Loper noted one thing that was left out was the dedication of the Parks and Recreation Staff. Vice-chair Loper suggested staff to emphasis through outreach to the public the value of the community parks to the neighborhoods. There is apprehension on the public's perception about having parks in their neighborhoods. Ms Weiss said one of the Accreditation units is Education for Leisure and this requires the agency to educate the public on the benefits of parks and the value you get when you recreate. Across the country no agency has been able to figure out how to do that as yet.

Chairperson Hersey noted the population chart on page 4 does not add up. Ms. Weiss will look at that and get back to the Commission with the correct figures.

Commissioner Owens asked if we know why we had such a big jump in children in single parent families and asked where these figures come from. Ms. Weiss said the figures come from the census figures. Vice-chair Loper feels that prior to 1995 there was no development along Frank Lloyd Wright and now there are a lot of apartment complexes, which may be more appealing to single parent families. Commissioner Anderson noted there is more divorce now. The number of children has also increased in single parent families.

UPDATE ON THE MARCH 25, 2004 MEETING OF THE YOUTH SPORTS FIELD TASK FORCE

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, and William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director, updated the Commission on the recent meeting of the Youth Sports Field Task Force and the recommendations for funding and continuation of the pilot use fee program implemented this fiscal year.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the people at the meeting were upset about the fees. Ms. Weiss said all of the people that are now paying a fee would prefer not to. Most groups including the Little League were represented. In discussing the various options, the staff recommendation was to reduce the fee and add 4 school fields to the maintenance program. As we went around the room it was clear that if they have to pay a fee they would prefer it be lower but the best thing would be not to pay a fee at all. Commissioner Anderson asked if anyone had any input on how to get the same results without paying a fee. Ms. Weiss said the members are not familiar with the budget and were not aware of how to make recommendations for offsets.

Commissioner Cerimeli said staff did a great job presenting the information. Overall the group would like to have the city find funds and add fields. The groups would like to keep the money in the programs to enhance them. The money they are putting toward the fee could go to equipment and other things. Little League was there and some represented the fees as unfair as they are paying the fee and getting no reward at the locations they are playing at. It is not even. The 2 council members were very supportive in trying to find the money in the General Fund to support this program. The majority would continue to pay the fee to keep the fields in good condition. He doesn't feel we should be tapping youth sports, as these programs build character. The city should find a different way to pay for it.

Vice-chair Loper asked if the program is field maintenance. Ms. Weiss said it was and the fee is for all sports including water sports. Vice-chair Loper echoed the comments of Commissioner Cerimeli and ideally no one should have to pay to participate in youth sports. Ms. Weiss said we would love to be able to have all youth programs subsidized by the General Fund. Building character is what the division does on a day-to-day basis. The other recommendation was to reduce the swimmers fee from \$5 to \$4 per hour. There is a cost of doing business and the City Council will decide the priorities. Vice-chair Loper asked if the general consensus of the group was to eliminate the fee. Ms. Weiss said that is what everyone generally stated at the meeting.

Commissioner Anderson feels it is only fair if one group has to pay a fee then that is fine for everyone. The reverse is true to but where do you stop. She is glad the City Council has to decide this. This is a Pandora's Box and it will be interesting to see what comes out after it is opened.

UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES AT HORIZON PARK

Bob Gwinn, Recreation Coordinator, and Andy Passmonick, Recreation Leader III, provided an update to the Commission on the programming, facilities, and maintenance responsibilities at Horizon Park.

Commissioner Anderson asked how do children get here after school. Mr. Gwinn said there are buses from Zuni, Cheyenne and Aztec. Commissioner Anderson asked if more children could be accommodated. Mr. Gwinn said there are 25 on a waitlist.

Vice-chair Loper asked how the 228,000 visitors compare to other parks in the City. Mr. Gwinn said it is comparable to Indian School and Vista Parks. Vice-chair Loper asked if the high school students get credit for tutoring and/or homework help. Mr. Gwinn said Community Service workers from many schools participate and staff keeps logs on attendance. They do get credit for their work. Vice-chair Loper asked if the Teen Program is open to all residents of Scottsdale. Mr. Gwinn said it is and if they are interested they are provided with a packet of information. Staff uses surveys to find the interests of the participants.

Commissioner Owens noted his children's team plays on the fields at Aztec and little kids love the water from volleyball area so the push buttons and then run off. Can something be done about this. Mr. Gwinn said staff will check into it. Commissioner Owens asked if the maintenance work includes trash collection. Mr. Gwinn said it did as well as maintaining sports courts and playgrounds. Commissioner Owens wondered if we could incorporate recycling into the trash collection. Mr. Gwinn said that staff has put out the pink containers during special events. It might be a good idea to do this during the sports seasons also. Ms. Weiss noted the contamination factor is pretty high but staff can try. Commissioner Anderson suggested a sign be placed on the container as to what is acceptable to deposit.

Commissioner Cerimeli asked why there were 25 on the waiting list and what is the limiting factor. Mr. Gwinn said space and staff determined the maximum participant level. Eighty-five is the most we have ever had and have upped it recently from 75. When participants move or withdraw staff registers someone from the waitlist. The objective is to keep the staff ratio as low as possible.

Chairperson Hersey asked what the most popular age group was. Mr. Passmonick said the participants are most 8 to 10 years of age.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Hersey called for any items from the floor or from the Commission. There were none.

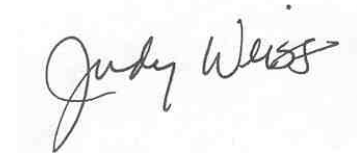
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-chair Loper seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Hersey adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Weiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Judy Weiss, Director
Parks and Recreation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William B. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

William Murphy, Director
Parks and Grounds Maintenance